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Filed : **March 12, 2001**

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments are responsive to the October 19, 2005 Office Action. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Amendment to Claim 29

Claim 29 has been amended to correct a typographical error.

Response to Rejection of Claim 1 Under 35 U.S.C. 112, Second Paragraph

The Examiner rejected Claim 1 Under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which application regards as the invention. Applicants have amended Claim 1 to clarify that the user can choose between Internet content and broadcast radio content.

Applicants respectfully assert that Claim 1 is in condition for allowance, and Applicants request allowance of Claim 1.

Response to Rejection of Claims 1-30 and 32-49 Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-30 and 32-49 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mankovitz (U.S. 5,949,492) in view of Logan et al. (U.S. 6,088,455). Mankovitz teaches access of auxiliary information from broadcast media. In Mankovitz, "[a] receiver comprises means for receiving broadcast programs from one of a plurality of stations at different frequencies, a clock continually providing a time measure in day, hour and minute, and means for instantaneously identifying a broadcast program, comprising a memory, means for receiving an input signal from a user, and means responsive to the input signal for storing a program identification into the memory. The program identification includes the time at which the input signal is received and an identification of the station broadcasting the program." (Col 3 at lines 20-30). Supplemental information is requested by using the station identifier and time of a program. Mankovitz does not teach or suggest allowing a user to receive assignments of

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playlists comprising audio data from a variety of audio sources and information about the location of web sites containing the audio sources, or allowing the user to select between Internet and broadcast radio sources.

Regarding Claim 1, the cited combination does not teach or suggest, a visual display for providing audio source choices to a user, the visual display also providing displays for managing audio sources, user control buttons allowing the user to choose an audio source, menu buttons allowing the user to choose functions for managing the audio sources, tuner circuitry for receiving radio frequency signals from radio broadcast stations, a compact disk player, one or more audio amplifiers, one or more loudspeakers operably connected to the audio amplifiers, a network interface for transmitting and receiving digital data over a communications network, a data storage device, a decode software module configured to decode compressed audio files into a computer readable format, a communication software module configured to use the network interface to connect to an Internet to receive assignments of playlists, the playlists comprising audio data from a variety of audio sources, the assignments providing information about the location of other web sites containing the audio sources, the software module configured to subsequently connect through the Internet to the web sites to download the audio files, and, a third software module stored on the data storage device, the software module configured to use the network interface to connect to the Internet to receive digitized audio broadcasts from the Internet, the module further configured to provide a select broadcast display to allow the user to selectably connect a module broadcast to the input of the one or more audio amplifiers either from broadcast radio or from said Internet to allow a user to choose between Internet content and broadcast radio content.

Regarding Claim 2, the cited combination does not teach or suggest the system of Claim 1, wherein the compressed audio file is in MP3 format.

Regarding Claim 3, the cited combination does not teach or suggest the system of Claim 1, wherein the first software module reads audio files in Windows Media Audio format.

Regarding Claim 4, the cited combination does not teach or suggest the system of Claim 1, wherein an extraction software module extracts audio files from a compact disc and stores the extracted audio files on the data storage device in a computer readable format.

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Regarding Claim 5, the cited combination does not teach or suggest the system of Claim 4, wherein a compression software module converts the extracted audio files into a compressed file format.

Regarding Claim 6, the cited combination does not teach or suggest the system of Claim 1, wherein an upload software module residing on a server uploads selected audio files from a second network device to allow the stereo system to download the selected audio files.

Regarding Claim 7, the cited combination does not teach or suggest the system of Claim 1, wherein at least one of the menu buttons is a context-sensitive menu button that provides different functions depending on a type of audio source.

Regarding Claim 8, the cited combination does not teach or suggest the system of Claim 1, wherein the user-control buttons further comprise an action button that allows the user to request information on artists for a selected audio source.

Regarding Claim 9, the cited combination does not teach or suggest the system of Claim 8, wherein the information includes touring information for the given artist.

Regarding Claim 10, the cited combination does not teach or suggest the system of Claim 8, wherein the information includes news concerning the given artist of the audio source.

Regarding Claim 11, the cited combination does not teach or suggest the system of Claim 8, wherein the user is provided with the option to purchase items related to the given artist.

Regarding Claim 12, the cited combination does not teach or suggest the system of Claim 8, wherein the information includes a listing of other albums by the given artist.

Regarding Claim 13, the cited combination does not teach or suggest the system of Claim 8, wherein the user can choose to create a log of the information provided by the action button, the log then being uploaded to the server.

Regarding Claim 14, the cited combination does not teach or suggest the system of Claim 8, wherein the user can request artists and song titles for similar music to the given artist and given song title.

Regarding Claim 15, the cited combination does not teach or suggest the system of Claim 8, wherein the user can request samples of music from an audio source.

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Regarding Claim, 16 the cited combination does not teach or suggest the system of Claim 8, wherein at least one advertisement is displayed along with the information associated with the artist.

Regarding Claim 17, the cited combination does not teach or suggest the system of Claim 8, wherein the action button further allows the user to purchase items related to the artist associated with the audio source.

Regarding Claim 18, the cited combination does not teach or suggest the system of Claim 8, wherein the action button further allows the user to purchase items related to the artist associated with the audio source.

Regarding Claim 19, the cited combination does not teach or suggest the system of Claim 16, wherein the displayed advertisement includes menu options for the purchase of items.

Regarding Claim 20, the cited combination does not teach or suggest the system of Claim 1, wherein the user control buttons further comprise an action button that allows the user to request a title of a song for a selected audio source, the audio source being sent to a second server for analysis, and the second server sending the artist name and title of the audio source back to the server.

Regarding Claim 21, the cited combination does not teach or suggest the system of Claim 20, wherein the action button further allows the user to request the name of the artist associated with the audio source, the audio source being sent to a second server for analysis, and the second server sending the artist name and title of the audio source back to the server.

Regarding Claim 22, the cited combination does not teach or suggest the system of Claim 1, wherein a digital output cable provides for the transfer of a digital audio stream to another audio device.

Regarding Claim 23, the cited combination does not teach or suggest the system of Claim 22, wherein the digital output cable outputs optical signals.

Regarding Claim 24, the cited combination does not teach or suggest the system of Claim 22, wherein the digital output cable is a TOS link.

Regarding Claim 25, the cited combination does not teach or suggest the system of Claim 1, wherein the compact disk player can play standard compact disks or MP3 encoded compact disks.

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Regarding Claim 26, the cited combination does not teach or suggest the system of Claim 1, wherein the user control buttons further comprise a shuttle button, the shuttle button comprising a circular button with a right button, a left button, an up button, and a down button.

Regarding Claim 27, the cited combination does not teach or suggest the system of Claim 26, wherein the shuttle button further comprises an inner circular button which allows the user to make a selection after navigating through options with the right button, the left button, the up button, and the down button.

Regarding Claim 28, the cited combination does not teach or suggest the system of Claim 27, wherein the left button, the right button, the up button, and the down button lie on an outer ring portion of the shuttle button.

Regarding Claim 29, the cited combination does not teach or suggest the system of Claim 26, wherein the right button and the left button are used to navigate through playlists and up and the down button are used to navigate through songs in a given playlist selected by the right button and the left button.

Regarding Claim 30, the cited combination does not teach or suggest a visual display for providing audio source choices to a user, a visual display for providing visual information for managing audio sources, user-control buttons allowing the user to choose an audio source, menu buttons allowing the user to choose functions for managing the audio sources, a compact disk player, a network interface for transmitting and receiving digital data over a communications network, a data storage device, a first software module configured to decode compressed audio files into a computer readable format, and, a second software module configured to use the network interface to connect to an Internet to receive assignments of playlists from a second software module, the playlists comprising audio from a variety of audio sources, the assignments providing information about the location of other web sites containing the audio sources, the second software module configured to subsequently connect through the Internet to the web sites to download audio files.

Regarding Claim 32, the cited combination does not teach or suggest an action button, a visual display for providing information to a user, a network interface for transmitting and receiving digital data over a communications network, a data storage device, a software module configured to use the network interface to connect to an Internet, request data associated with an

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audio source from a server in response to pressing the action button, and receive data associated with the audio source from server, the software module configured to display data received from the server on the visual display.

Regarding Claim 33, the cited combination does not teach or suggest the system of Claim 32, wherein the server downloads to the data storage device information related to the audio source.

Regarding Claim 34, the cited combination does not teach or suggest the system of Claim 33, wherein the information related to the audio source is displayed on the visual display.

Regarding Claim 35, the cited combination does not teach or suggest the system of Claim 34, wherein the visual display presents options to control viewing the information associated with the audio source.

Regarding Claim 36, the cited combination does not teach or suggest the system of Claim 33, wherein the information related to the audio source comprises artist information.

Regarding Claim 37, the cited combination does not teach or suggest the system of Claim 33, wherein the artist information comprises tour information.

Regarding Claim, 38the cited combination does not teach or suggest the system of Claim 33, wherein the information related to the audio source comprises title information.

Regarding Claim 39, the cited combination does not teach or suggest the system of Claim 33, wherein the information related to the audio source comprises music-genre information.

Regarding Claim 40, the cited combination does not teach or suggest a music playback system configured to receive a playlist from a playlist-server, a radio tuner, and, user controls to allow a user to play songs from the playlist or from the radio tuner.

Regarding Claim 41, the cited combination does not teach or suggest the audio system of Claim 40, further comprising an action button configured to request information regarding a currently playing song.

Regarding Claim 42, the cited combination does not teach or suggest the audio system of Claim 41, wherein the currently playing song is determined by sampling a portion of the currently playing song and comparing the portion with data in a database.

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Regarding Claim 43, the cited combination does not teach or suggest the audio system of Claim 40, further configured to track which songs were played from the playlist for use by third parties.

Regarding Claim 44, the cited combination does not teach or suggest the audio system of Claim 40, wherein the server comprises a personal audio network server.

Regarding Claim 45, the cited combination does not teach or suggest the audio system of Claim 40, further comprising a display, and display providing a menu for selecting an audio source.

Regarding Claim 46, the cited combination does not teach or suggest the audio system of Claim 45, wherein the menu includes a playlist menu item, a radio menu item, a compact disk menu item.

Regarding Claim 47, the cited combination does not teach or suggest the audio system of Claim 45, wherein user-control buttons can be remotely disabled.

Regarding Claim 48, the cited combination does not teach or suggest a visual display for providing audio source choices to a user, the visual display having a display area having a smallest dimension of not more than four inches, user control buttons allowing the user to choose functions for managing the audio sources without use of a keyboard or a mouse, tuner circuitry for receiving radio frequency signals from radio broadcast stations, a media reader, a data storage device, an extraction software module which extracts audio files from a compact disc and stores the audio files on the data storage device in a computer readable format, a decode software module configured to decode the extracted audio files that are compressed into a computer readable format, a playlist software module which allows the user to construct playlists from the audio files, context-sensitive menu buttons corresponding to menu items displayed on the display, a digital output cable providing for the transfer of a digital audio stream to another device, and, an analog audio output.

Regarding Claim 49, the cited combination does not teach or suggest the system of Claim 49, wherein the audio system further comprises a digital input cable providing for the transfer of a digital audio stream from another device.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 1-30, 32-39 are allowable over the prior art, and Applicant request allowance of Claims 1-30, 32-39

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Summary

Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 1-30, 32-39 are in condition for allowance, and Applicants request allowance of Claims 1-30, 32-39. If there are any remaining issues that can be resolved by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (949) 721-6305 or at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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